

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-16 (canceled).

17. (currently amended) Intervertebral prosthesis comprising:

an elastic body made of a material which is flexible in all directions, said elastic body constructed and arranged for placement in an inter-laminar region between two adjacent lumbar vertebrae, and

a securing means constructed and arranged for securing the elastic body to the adjacent lumbar vertebrae, ~~comprising wherein said securing means comprises an engaging means constructed and arranged~~ for engaging the vertebrae between laminar arches of the adjacent lumbar vertebrae.

18. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to Claim 17, wherein said elastic body has two opposite ends, and said securing means comprises an anchoring plate provided for each end of the elastic body, said anchoring plate being constructed and arranged for anchoring being anchored to a corresponding laminar arch of ~~each of the adjacent~~ lumbar vertebrae.

19. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 18, wherein said anchoring plate is substantially rigid.

20. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 17, wherein ~~each~~ said anchoring plate has a plurality of shaped projections ~~shaped~~ constructed and arranged for co-acting with a corresponding laminar arch of each of the adjacent lumbar vertebra.

21. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 20, wherein ~~each~~ said anchoring plate has three projections extending from said anchoring plate such that said projections are located, in use, towards the a corresponding laminar arch

of lumbar vertebrae.

22. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 20, wherein ~~each~~ said anchoring plate includes a median projection constructed and arranged for insertion into a spinal foramen of the a vertebra and said anchoring plate further includes two laterally spaced apart lateral projections constructed and arranged for insertion, in use, in contact with corresponding outer surfaces of ~~laminae forming the~~ laminar arch laminae of lumbar vertebrae.

23. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 22, wherein said median projection has a thickness adapted to ~~is sufficiently thin that~~ for insertion of said median projection into spinal foramen of the vertebra without compressing the spinal cord.

24. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 17, additionally comprising a connection means ~~to connect~~ connecting said securing means to said elastic body.

25. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 24, wherein said connection means include ligatures, said anchoring plate comprises first holes and said elastic body comprises second holes, ~~each of said ligatures passing through first holes provided in said plates and corresponding second holes provided in said elastic body,~~ and said first holes and said second holes being are in line with each other with said ligatures passing through said first holes and said second holes.

26. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim ~~17~~ 18, wherein ~~each of~~ said anchoring plates plate has a surface groove which is in contact with the elastic body, said surface groove being adapted for insertion, in use, of a corresponding tip of a divaricator forceps ~~in order to separate the adjacent lumbar vertebrae between which the prosthesis is to be fitted.~~

27. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 26,

wherein the anchoring plate at each end of the elastic body has a said groove, and the grooves ~~said grooves in the plates~~ are orientated parallel to each other.

28. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 17, further comprising an auxiliary ligament adapted in use for ligament to spinous processes of ~~the~~ adjacent lumbar vertebrae ~~between which the prosthesis is introduced.~~

29. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 28, wherein ~~at least one of said plates~~ anchoring plate includes engaging means for engaging with said auxiliary ligament.

Claim 30 (canceled).

31. (currently amended) Prosthesis according to claim 29, wherein said engaging means include at least one lateral hook for ~~at least one of said plates~~ plate.

Claim 32 (canceled).